

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Johnny Anderson
Rep. Laura Black
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Curtis Oda

Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Rep. Hughes called the meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Bramble, Sen. Dayton, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Oda were absent for the vote.

2. Early Learning and Literacy - Read Today

Ms. Joanne Milner, Education Partnership Coordinator, Salt Lake City Mayor's Office, distributed handouts, "Preparing Your Child for School Success" and "Mayor's Early Childhood Learning and Literacy Toolkit" and gave a brief presentation on the Read Today campaign. She noted that the Early Childhood Learning and Literacy Action Team in partnership with KSL-TV and Deseret Media Companies have initiated the Read Today campaign and created a Read Today tool kit for implementing early learning and literacy activities.

Ms. Nadine Wimmer, News Anchor, KSL-TV and Early Learning and Literacy Action Team, gave a presentation on the Read Today program organized by the Early Learning and Literacy Action Team. She explained the activities of the group and its focus to engage parents to get involved with their children's reading. Among the accomplishments of the Read Today program, she noted, is a summer reading contest and book fair.

Ms. Sue Okroy, Literacy and Early Childhood Specialist, Utah State Office of Education (USOE), spoke about a book that can be used by parents to help a child learn to read.

Ms. Nedra Call, Curriculum Director, Nebo School District, explained that the Nebo School District provides resources to parents to help their children learn to read. She asserted that this effort has resulted in improvement in the reading skills of kindergarten children.

Ms. Milner asked the Committee to provide support for a legislative appropriation to help pay for the cost of publishing resources that parents can use to help their children learn to read.

3. Impact of High Quality Early Childhood Programs on the Educational Achievement of At-Risk Children

Ms. Janis Dubno, Senior Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children, gave a presentation on a study evaluating the impact of high quality early childhood education programs on the educational achievement of at-risk children. A report on the study was distributed to Committee members in the mailing packet.

Ms. Christina Alter, Vice President, Goldman, Sachs & Co., commented that Goldman Sachs has contributed \$100,000 for a preschool program coordinated by the United Way and operated by Granite School District.

4. Sunset Review of Voluntary Extended-Day Kindergarten

Chair Hughes noted that, unless reauthorized by the Legislature, the Voluntary Extended-Day Kindergarten program will terminate on July 1, 2011.

Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Director, Teaching and Learning, USOE, reported on the results achieved by the Voluntary Extended-Day Kindergarten program and requested that the Voluntary Extended-Day Kindergarten program be reauthorized.

Mr. Reed Spencer, Language Arts Coordinator, USOE, reviewed test score data showing that kindergarten students who participated in extended-day kindergarten made significant academic progress.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to consider this item at a subsequent committee meeting and to move to the next item on the agenda. The motion passed with Rep. Moss voting in opposition. Sen. Bramble, Sen. Hillyard, and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

5. Online Learning in Utah Elementary and Secondary Schools

Dr. Dickson distributed and reviewed a handout, "Online Learning in Utah Elementary and Secondary Schools."

Ms. Kathleen Webb, Electronic High School Principal and Educational Technology Coordinator, USOE, distributed and reviewed a handout, "Utah Electronic High School (EHS) - Fact Sheet." She gave an overview of who is using the EHS and noted that, during the 2009-10 school year, 15,691 quarter credits were awarded to 7,238 unique students through the EHS.

Ms. Patty Norman, Davis School District, distributed a handout, "Davis Digital Education," and gave a presentation on the school district's online learning programs and digital curriculum.

Mr. Cody Claver, K12 Inc., and Mr. John Gutman, Academic Administrator, Utah Virtual Academy, gave a presentation on Utah Virtual Academy, which is an online charter school, and discussed its demographics, student experiences, and academic successes and strengths.

Ms. DeLaina Tonks, Utah Open High School, distributed a copy of the presentation, "The Open High School of Utah Teaching Model," and gave an overview of the Utah Open High School, which is an online charter school. She noted that the school currently serves 250 students enrolled in 9th or 10th grade.

Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, responded to committee members' questions regarding funding for online courses.

6. Utah Education Network's (UEN) Role in Providing Internet Access for Public Schools

Chair Hughes turned the chair over to Sen. Stephenson.

Dr. Mike Peterson, Executive Director, Utah Education Network, explained that UEN provides internet access for public schools in the state. He noted that UEN will request \$40,000 from the Legislature to provide an internet connection for new public schools that will be opening in the state.

7. Annual Reports

- A.** Regents' and New Century Scholarships
- B.** Foreign Gifts to Higher Education Institutions
- C.** Use of Capitol Outlay Increment Monies/Plans to Expand Student Capacity of Schools
- D.** Teacher Quality
- E.** State School Fund

Sen. Morgan requested that a brief verbal report be made on the reports at the next meeting.

8. Other Items / Adjourn

Sen. Stephenson announced that Jordan School District's superintendent will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. He noted that constituents in Jordan School District expressed concern that the existing school board may appoint a new superintendent, rather than allowing that decision to be made by the school board that will take office in January.

The Utah Taxpayers Association distributed a handout, "Utah School District Comparison 2008 - 2009."

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Rep. Black, Rep. Ipson, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Oda, Rep. Poulson, Rep. Sumsion, and Rep. Watkins absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.